

**Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties
Historic Bridge Inventory
Maryland State Highway Administration
Maryland Historical Trust**

MHT No. BA-2647

Name and SHA No. Loch Raven Road Bridge (BC6508)

Location:

Street/Road Name and Number: Loch Raven Road over Shanghai Creek

City/Town: Carney x vicinity

County: Baltimore

Ownership: State County x Municipal Other

This bridge projects over: Road Railway x Water Land

Is the bridge located within a designated district: yes x no

__NR listed district **__NR determined eligible district**

 locally designated other

Name of District

Bridge Type:

Timber Bridge

Beam Bridge Truss-Covered Trestle Timber-and-Concrete

x Stone Arch

Metal Truss Bridge

Movable Bridge

☐ Swing ☐ Bascule Single Leaf ☐ Bascule Multiple Leaf

Vertical Lift Retractable Pontoon

Metal Girder

Rolled Girder Rolled Girder Concrete Encased

Plate Girder Plate Girder Concrete Encased

Metal Suspension

Metal Arch

Metal Cantilever

Concrete

_Concrete Arch _Concrete Slab _Concrete Beam _Rigid Frame

Other Type Name

Description:**Describe Setting:**

Bridge BC6508 carries Loch Raven Road over Shanghai Creek in the Loch Raven Reservoir area of Baltimore. Loch Raven Road runs in a generally northwest-southeast direction at this location; while Shanghai Creek, a small intermittent drainage, flows southwest-northeast. The creek drains into a retention pond for the Loch Raven Reservoir. This bridge is situated just south of Bridge BC6509 and the Loch Raven Dam, along the west side of the reservoir. The area is relatively undeveloped, although a small park service dwelling and related outbuildings are located just to the northwest of this bridge.

**Describe Superstructure and Substructure:
(Discuss points identified in Context Addendum, Section C)**

Bridge BC6508 is a single-span stone arch bridge measuring 24 feet in total length. The arch is 12 feet wide. Its northern, or downstream, side exhibits a voussoir of carefully cut and molded stones with a very prominent keystone. The wing walls flare at oblique angles to the line of the bridge and are topped with segmental sloping capstones. A concrete parapet bears the inscription "1878" on its exterior side. On the southern, or upstream, side of the bridge, the arch has been obscured by a steel conduit encased in concrete, 10 feet in diameter, which carries water. Jersey barriers have been set up at the northwest corner of the bridge. The roadway carries two lanes of traffic.

Discuss major alterations:

In 1914, a steel conduit was constructed connecting the new Loch Raven Dam with the tunnel to Lake Montebello located at the old dam approximately one-half mile to the south. This conduit measures 10 feet in diameter and is housed in a rectangular shaped concrete chamber. The conduit and its housing were appended to the upstream sides of the bridges over Shanghai Creek and Towson Run during this episode of construction. It is likely that the concrete parapets and other concrete reinforcements were added at the same time.

History:

When Built: 1878/modified 1914

Why Built: as part of construction of Loch Raven Road

Who Built: City of Baltimore/alterations by Mason, Hilton & Co. of New York

Who Designed: unknown

Why Altered: to accommodate steel pipe conduit

Was this bridge built as part of an organized bridge building campaign: yes

Nine stone arch bridges, including bridges BC6508 and BC6509, were constructed along the perimeter of Loch Raven Reservoir during the late 1870s as part of the carriage access road. As related structures, these bridges together are potentially eligible under Criterion A for their role in providing access to the City of Baltimore's dam and waterworks at Loch Raven Reservoir.

Surveyor Analysis:

This bridge may have NR significance for association with:

☒ A Events ☐ B Person

☒ C Engineering/Architectural Character

Was the bridge constructed in response to significant events in Maryland or local history?

Bridges BC6508 and BC6509 were built to span the carriage access road surrounding the Loch Raven Reservoir. In all, nine of these stone arch bridges were constructed along Loch Raven Road, three on the east side of the lake and six on the west side. The Loch Raven Reservoir area, including 21 miles of the Gunpowder River from tide-water to Meredith's Bridge and 1600 acres of land, had been purchased by the City of Baltimore as early as 1866. In 1874, an ordinance was passed creating a permanent water supply for the City of Baltimore at Loch Raven. Construction of the dam and waterworks began in 1875 and was completed in 1881. The water supply system consisted of the dam and lake at Loch Raven, a tunnel, along the line Harford Street about 2 miles north of the city limits, connecting Loch Raven with a distributing reservoir called Lake Montebello and a second pipeline connecting Lake Montebello with Lake Clifton near the Johns Hopkins estate.

By 1908, plans were underway to create a new dam at Loch Raven. It would be located approximately one-half mile upstream from the earlier dam. This dam was completed in 1914. As mentioned above, a steel conduit was constructed at this time to link the new dam with the tunnel to Lake Montebello. The conduit was placed along the upstream side of Bridges BC6508 and BC6509, thereby blocking the access to the lake from these streams.

When the bridge was built and/or given a major alteration, did it have a significant impact on the growth and development of the area?

Loch Raven Reservoir is both a municipal water supply and a recreational area. This reservoir provides areas for fishing, boating, hiking, and picnicking, and has encouraged development of the area surrounding the reservation. This bridge has facilitated access to Loch Raven and promoted growth of the area as a whole.

Is the bridge located in an area which may be eligible for historic designation and would the bridge add to or detract from the historic and visual character of the possible district?

The Loch Raven Reservoir area may be eligible for historic designation, and the bridge would add to both the historic and visual character of the possible district.

Is the bridge a significant example of its type?

Since a good portion of this bridge has been altered since its original construction to include concrete materials, it may no longer be considered a significant example of a late 19th century stone arch bridge.

Does the bridge retain integrity of the important elements described in the Context Addendum?

This bridge retains historic integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. However, its integrity of design, materials and feeling has been lost due to the alteration of the upstream side of the bridge and the addition of concrete parapets. The bridge possesses integrity of nearly all its major components on its downstream side, including the stone arch ring, barrel, abutments, and wing walls.

Is the bridge a significant example of the work of the manufacturer, designer, and/or engineer and why?

Before their alterations, Bridges BC6508 and BC6509 would have been together potentially eligible under Criterion C as significant examples of the City of Baltimore's engineering work in developing a series of stone arch bridges to carry the access road at Loch Raven Reservoir. However, due to the changes these bridges have undergone from their original state, they appear to be no longer eligible under Criterion C.

Should this bridge be given further study before significance analysis is made and why?

No further evaluation is necessary to determine National Register significance. However, additional research concerning the history of this bridge and its relationship to the surrounding landscape may be useful in providing a more complete picture of the bridge's background.

Provide black and white prints and negatives and color slides of bridge, details, and setting labeled according to NR Bulletin 16A and Maryland Supplement to Bulletin 16A.

Provide a photocopy USGS map illustrating the location of the bridge.

Surveyor:

Name:

Alice Crampton/Julie Abell

Date:

12/8/94

Organization:

Parsons Engineering Science, Inc.

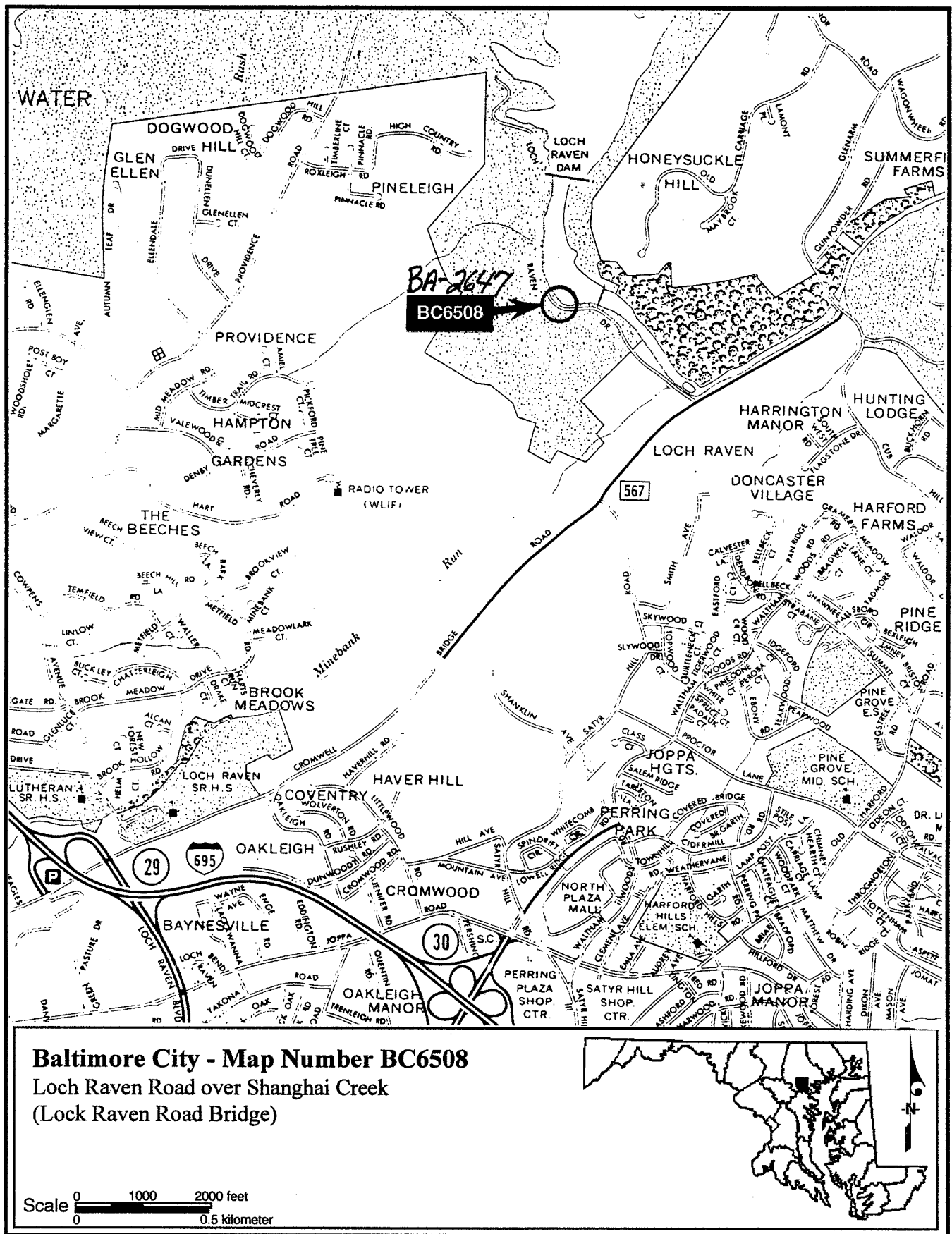
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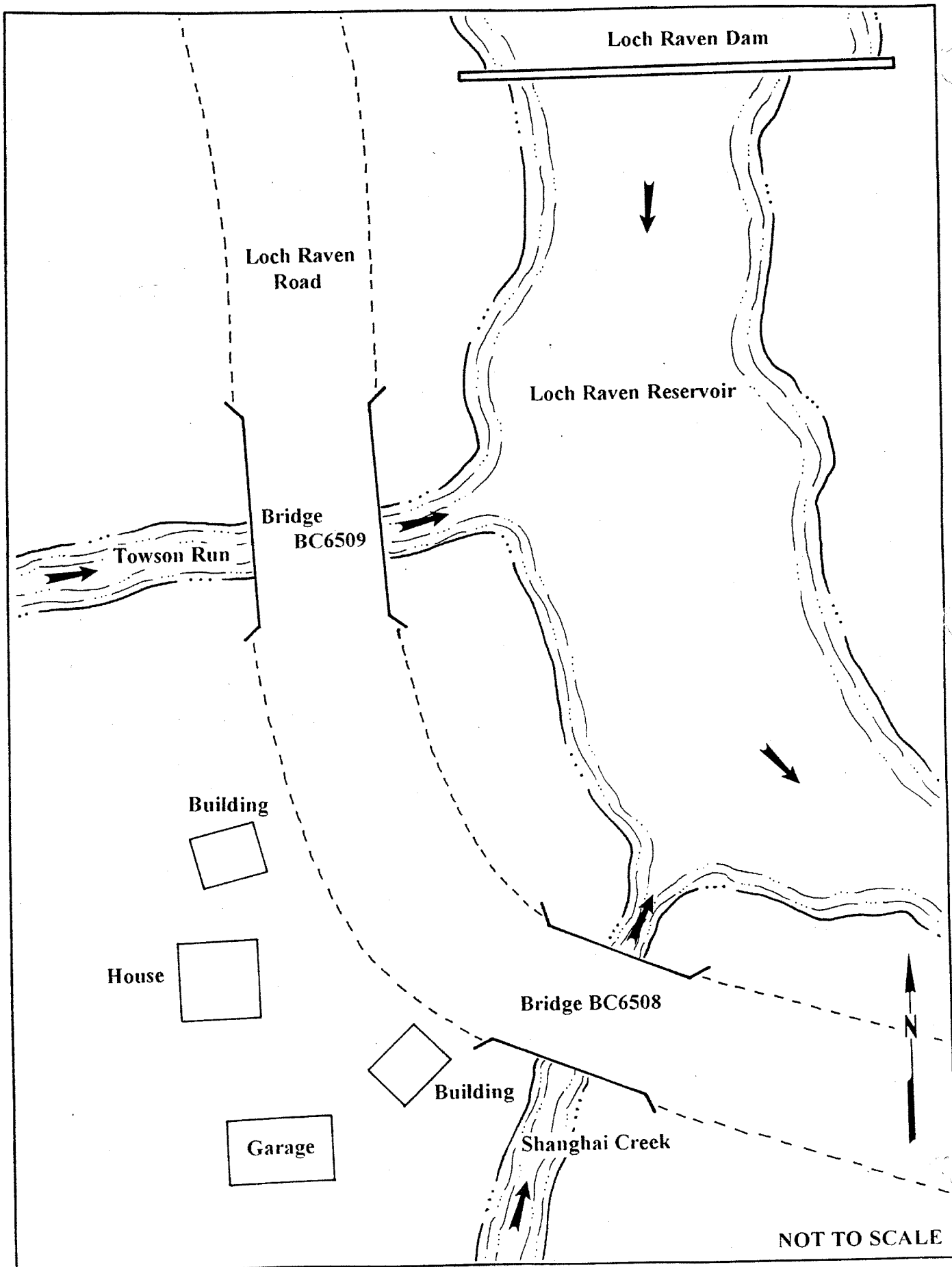
(703) 591-7575

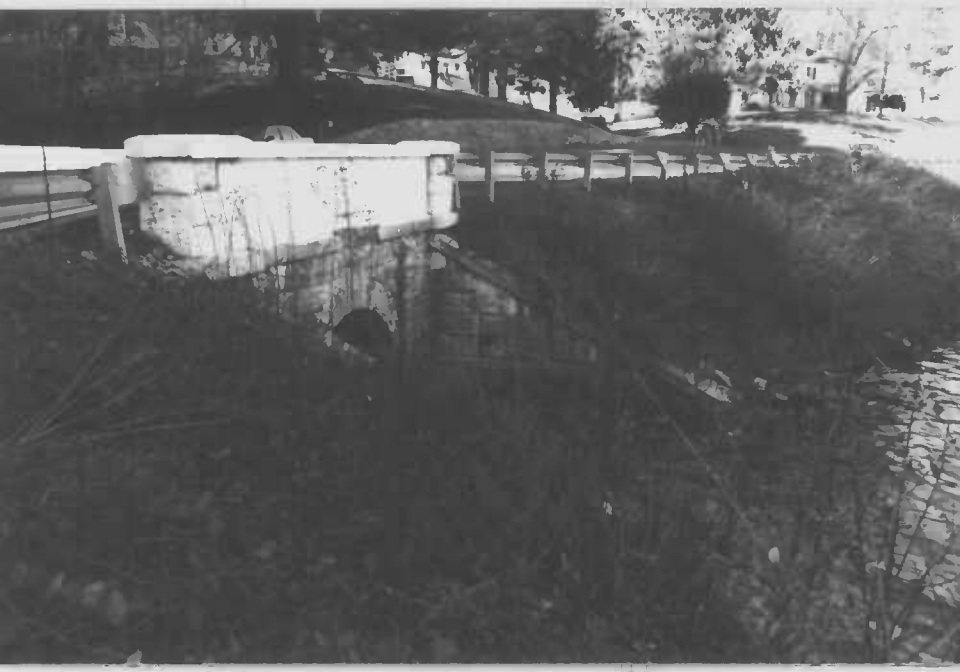
Address:

10521 Rosehaven Street

Fairfax, Virginia 22030-2899







BA-2647

Loch Raven Road Bridge (BC6508)

Baltimore County, Maryland

Julie Abell

12/94

Maryland State Highway Administration

Northeast elevation

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Northeast elevation, detail

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Northeast elevation, detail

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Loch Raven Road Bridge (BC6508)

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Southwest elevation

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Loch Raven Road Bridge (BC6508)

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Approach looking southeast

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Loch Raven Road Bridge (BC6508)

Baltimore County, Maryland

Julie Abell

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Approach looking northwest

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